

RIGHT MAKES MIGHT  
"Let us have faith that right makes might; and, in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."  
—Abraham Lincoln.

# THE ALMA RECORD

A SACRED TRUST  
"The Constitution is a sacred instrument; and a sacred trust is given to us to see to it that its preservation in all its virtue and its vigor is passed on to the generations yet to come."  
—William McKinley

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ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 12, 1920

WHOLE NUMBER 2134

## COMMISSION MAY DECIDE THE RATE

State Utilities Body Will Probably Have Final Say As To Gas Charge.

## WILL REVOKE THE FRANCHISE

City Officials May Join With The Officers of Company in An Appeal.

Present indications are that the voters of Alma will not get an opportunity to pass upon the proposition submitted by the Gratiot County Gas Company, which is asking for a fixed rate of seven per cent on its investment, in order that it may be in a position to guarantee charges on money that it desires to borrow that the capacity of the plant may be increased sufficiently to properly handle the business that has come to the company.

Unless present indications are entirely misleading the public utilities commission of the state, which has jurisdiction over such concerns as the gas company, will be the rate making judge in the matter, as there is every probability that the city commission will revoke the franchise of the company within the next week or two, and then join with the company in making a joint solution, asking the utilities commission to step in and fix a rate, that will be fair to both the gas company and to the people of Alma.

The present plan has come out of a visit that Mayor Murphy had in Lansing last week with a member of the state commission, and is appealing to the city commission here and to the gas company, as a proposition that is fair and just.

Tuesday evening the directors of the Gratiot County Gas company submitted a statement to the commission to the effect that it had violated the franchise under which it is working here. There happens to be a clause in the franchise that states that the franchise may be revoked if it is violated for a period of ninety days, and the "confession" as Commissioner Creaser would term it, is a frank statement of the violation, so that the city commission may find its way clear to revoke the franchise, and then join with the gas company in making an appeal to the public utilities commission to fix the rate for the company.

Mr. Creaser advised the city commission at that point to go slow, calling attention to the fact that the clause to revoke the franchise was to punish and not reward the company, and intimating that new ground had been found for him to stand on since the meeting two weeks ago when the gas question was up. It also managed to bring out another forensic contest between Manager Wagner of the gas company and Commissioner Creaser, which lived up to the evening considerably.

Mr. Wagner states that he has not taken the present proposition up in St. Louis, Ithaca and Breckenridge as yet, being desirous of getting the matter settled here before it is taken before the governing heads of those places. He believes thoroughly that those places will follow the lead of Alma in the matter.

It is pointed out that the one great reason why the company desires to secure a fixed rate of seven per cent, is so that it may go out on the market and borrow funds with which to increase its capacity, thereby enabling the company to furnish a gas to its patrons which will be at an even present at all times, thus doing with the great trouble that the patrons have experienced to some extent in the past few months. It is pointed out that the company cannot guarantee interest charges on the money that it should borrow, under the present temporary emergency rate of \$1.45 per thousand cubic feet.

Another thing that the company is desirous of securing money on the market, is so that it may construct large coke sheds, so that the coke made by the company will not be exposed to rain and snow, and will thus do away with another source of trouble which has been experienced to some small extent in the past.

### SACRED CONCERT

The Methodist choir of Alma, Miss Ruth Palmer, director, and Miss Mabel Udell, pianist, will give a special sacred concert Sunday evening, February 15, assisted by George Andrea Bennett and several of his pupils. Mr. Bennett is a vocal instructor of wide renown and has an enviable reputation, as a teacher and singer and is considered to be one of Michigan's best soloists. He appears in Chautauque, Lyceum and Oratorio with English, Italian and French Repertory.

### MARRIED WEDNESDAY

It has been learned that Miss Myrtle Mae Ishonath and Joseph H. Owen were quietly married last Wednesday, February 4, by Fr. J. A. Mulvey of St. Mary's Catholic church. They will make their home in this community.

## SEVERAL DEATHS

Influenza Has Caused One Death in This City.

Mrs. Flossie Corothers, aged 32 years, died at the home of her sister, Mrs. E. J. Merrill Saturday morning, following a few days illness of influenza.

Mrs. Corothers had been attending a convention in Kalamazoo and came to Alma to visit with her sister, enroute to her home in Marlette. She was ill when she reached this city, and failed to recover.

The husband and Mrs. Corothers parents came to Alma from Marlette and took the body to that city for interment.

Mrs. Emaline Griffith died in Lansing Saturday, at the age of 75 years. The body was brought to Alma and Monday morning the funeral was held from the Baptist church in Emerson township, where she had been a resident for many years. Rev. Slaybaugh had charge of the services. Mrs. Griffith is survived by one son, James, of DeWitt and two daughters, Maud and Sadie Shunk.

The body of Henry King, former Alma resident, who died in Lansing Friday at the age of 25 years, was brought to Alma for burial, the funeral being held Sunday, and interment made in Riverside cemetery.

## REV. MATT DUFFEY

GAVE STRONG ADDRESS

Good Points Were Brought Out in the Special Sermon on Alma Sunday.

Rev. Matt W. Duffey, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, in his address, "Alma Our Opportunity and Our Responsibility," Sunday evening, brought out very forcibly some of the evils that confront the young people of this city, and just as clearly brought to the attention of his large audience some of the needful things for Alma. He also took a crack at the rent profiteer.

In bringing out the things that had potentialities for evil, although they had possibilities for great good in the community Rev. Duffey mentioned the movie, the pool rooms and bowling alleys. Crime scenes, and other startling scenes in movie that at times grip the young, and at times lead them astray were deplored, and a censor to keep such films from the eyes of the young of the city was suggested. He also greatly deplored the Sunday movie as a desecration of the Sabbath day. He was able to see the potential forces for good in pool and in bowling, but also brought out the evil influences that surround the average present day pool room and bowling alley.

The dance hall as Alma knows it was taken up, and its abolition was urged. He spoke of a knowledge that he had of young girls being led into wrong paths, through its influence. If dancing was to be bad, he said, it should be only the simple steps.

Things that Alma needs were then taken up, the first to be mentioned being a depot. Its inadequacy, and its well known highly unsanitary condition were mentioned, bringing home to every person in the audience the remembrance of personal trips to the depot in past days. The thought of such trips was argument enough.

The need of a park and playground system, where pleasure and recreation might be secured was brought out, and with it came the thoughts of the young of the city, playing day in the streets, where they are a prey of traffic, and where the same healthful recreation that a playground or a park gives, could not be secured.

The need of a city hospital for the protection, as well as for the well being of local residents was urged, a hospital under control of the city, where all physicians might practice.

He also mentioned other matters that were needful; a daily paper; a live board of trade; a co-operation between residents of the city that would preclude the sending out of town goods, etc.; no profiteering, in business and particularly in rents, when the city has such need of forging to the front; a need for the city to keep its residents from constructing two and three houses on a single lot; and a civic and a spiritual co-operation that would make Alma a city that would be an example for all others to follow, a city that would closely approach the ideal.

## QUESTION DECIDED

Triangular Debating League Will Argue on Strike Arbitration.

The question to be debated this year by the Triangular Debating league, which is composed of Hope, Kalamazoo and Alma colleges, will discuss strike arbitration in this year's debate to be held April 15, the question having been decided this past week.

The question is, "Resolved, That there should be a Federal Board to control compulsory Arbitration in Strikes."

Kalamazoo college is a new member of the Triangular Debating league, having been recently voted into the association to replace Olivet college, which closed its doors last June.

## ORGANIZING A NEW BAND HERE

Will Be Under the Auspices of the Masonic Lodge of This City.

## GOOD TALENT IS AVAILABLE

Officers Have Been Elected For The Organization And Active Work Started.

Alma is to have a new band, which is being organized at the present time, and will be under the auspices of the Masonic lodge of this city.

Plans for the band have all been made, and at meeting held within the last few days the officers for the band were elected. The personnel of the organization is now being worked out.

The efforts now being made to give this city a high grade band are being warmly greeted in many quarters of the city and it is a certainty that the organization will not lack for support, as there has been a genuine need of such an organization since the disbandment of the Republic band some two years ago.

There is any quantity of available material in Alma for a high class organization and a large number of well known players are already enrolled in the personnel of the organization which is now holding regular practice meetings.

The officers of the band are as follows: Director, F. J. Tucker; assistant director, D. H. Nickerson; president, Ray Madden; vice presidents, G. V. Nye and A. E. Davies; secretary, S. J. Devlin; treasurer, P. M. Smith.

Following is the personnel of the band and the instrumentation: Cornets, D. H. Nickerson, W. R. Tomlin, Earl C. Medler and George Hayward; trombones, G. A. Giles, J. D. Stauffer, Rodney Burgess and G. V. Nye; baritone, G. V. Wright and D. Murphy; basses, L. A. Smith and E. Henderson; altos, P. M. Smith, W. F. Gunther, Carl Gallagher and Robert King; clarinets, Malcolm Smith, Howard Riggle; saxophones, Henry Olmstead and S. J. Devlin; drums, L. Andre, W. Olds and Don E. Barnham.

## FARMERS' INSTITUTE

Gratiot Agriculturists Will Meet in Ithaca Next Week.

A two day farmers' institute is to be held in the armory in the village of Ithaca on Thursday, February 19, and Friday, February 20, which promises to be of unusual interest to the farmers of Gratiot county, who are being urged to attend.

A fine program has been arranged for the event, and it will include addresses on community betterment, on soils, the cost of farm production, and the farmer in the work of reconstruction.

The program which has been arranged follows:

Thursday

4:30 a. m.—Talk on Community Betterment, Rev. Roberts.

11:00—Talk on Soils by G. W. Kennedy, Supt. Soilway Process Company.

12 o'clock to 1:30—Intermission.

1:45 p. m.—Talk on soils continued by G. W. Kennedy.

Discussion—Kenneth Franklin.

Music—Pompeii orchestra.

2:30—Address, Cost of Production, farm crops, by H. C. Bramble, overseer of State grange.

Song, Earl Kuhlman.

Reading, Mrs. Vern Russell.

Question Box.

Friday

10:30 a. m.—Talk by Rev. Dewey.

11:00 a. m.—Address—Betterment—By John C. Ketchum, Lecturer National Grange, Master of State Grange and President of National Beet Growers Ass'n.

12:00 to 1:15 p. m.—Intermission.

1:15 Music by the Ithaca High School Orchestra.

Reading, L. Franklin.

2:00 Talk on Dairying.

Discussion.

Reading, Mrs. Maud Peet.

3:00 Address, The Farmers in Reconstruction, by John C. Ketchum.

4:00 Music by Pompeii Orchestra.

Song, Rev. Dewey.

Question Box.

## SEEN' THINGS

Rev. Leon May Saw Signs of Spring Monday Morning.

Early Monday morning, long before even the "office devil" put in appearance, Rev. Leon May came prancing up the single concrete step leading to the Record office door and wildly announced that spring was sure comin' as he had seen, or did he say, heard a robin. And that was February 9.

The scene of the Monday morning serenade was the "union" depot. Bein' how Mr. May is a really and truly reverend, we daren't dispute his claims, and it will have to go as the truth. Hence the first robin of spring has been here.

Buy the best. Buy DeLuxe.—77-4

## NOT SERIOUS

Every Precaution Is Being Taken By Authorities Against Influenza.

While quite a number of homes in this city have been quarantined for influenza, the situation here is not being regarded as serious in the least, as there are very few serious cases of the disease in Alma at the present time. Most of those who are suffering from influenza have the disease in a very light form.

There is no occasion for anyone becoming greatly alarmed over the situation, but every person in Alma should adopt a few simple health rules for their own protection as well as the protection of their families and the public. Endeavors should be made to keep in the best possible physical condition.

Those who feel ill should immediately go to bed and call a physician as a safety first measure, but above all things they should not become excited, or worried in regard to their condition.

If proper health rules are observed and plenty of pure fresh air breathed at all times, there should be little or no danger from the disease, or any other disease for that matter, as a real healthy person is well able to fight off the disease "bugs." How well Alma gets through with the flu depends upon how well the people care for themselves and co-operate in stamping out the disease.

## CLERK TENDERED

HIS RESIGNATION

After Four Years Alma City Clerk Is To Leave Position Because of His Health.

Tuesday evening a surprise was sprung at the meeting of the city commission, when just before the meeting adjourned, Carl E. Gallagher, for the past four years city clerk here, tendered his resignation to the city commission, effective on March first.

The resignation, which was read to the commission by the clerk, stated that ill health was the reason for the resignation, as he did not feel able to handle the affairs of the office in view of the present condition of his health, and that he did not feel that he would be able to do justice to either himself or the office for that reason.

On a motion the resignation of City Clerk Gallagher, was tabled until the next meeting of the city commission. In view of the health of Mr. Gallagher, the condition of which is fairly well known to the members of the commission, it is expected that the resignation will be accepted at the next meeting, even though there appears to be a disinclination on the part of the commissioners to take this action.

Mr. Gallagher has served the city, as clerk, for four years, lacking two months. Three times he was elected as city clerk on the democratic ticket, the minority party in this city. Last year under the city commission the office became appointive and he was appointed by Mayor Murphy and the appointment was confirmed by the commission.

As near as can be ascertained at this time the commission and Mayor Murphy have not settled upon any person as a possible successor to the present incumbent of the office, and it may be a week or ten days yet before a successor is secured.

Mr. Gallagher stated yesterday that as soon as he is relieved of the duties of the office that he expects to take a long rest and regain his health before deciding upon his future course.

## ARCADA FARMERS' CLUB

The Arcada Farmers' Club will hold their February meeting at the home of Smith & Walston on the mile east and 1/4 miles south of E. Superior crossing, Alma, on February 19. All members are requested to bring pot luck lunch.

At the last meeting it was decided to hold the meeting on the third Thursday of each month. This will bring the February meeting on the 19, and should not be confused with the old date of the fourth Thursday of the month.

Program is as follows:

Song by club.

Prayer.

Recreation by Mrs. Archie Rogers.

Reading, Mrs. Giles Isham.

Music, voluntary.

Reading, Mrs. John Fink.

The advantages of a Farmers' Co-operative Thresher outfit, by J. R. Wilson, secretary of The Northeastern Arcada Thresher Co.

Progressive farmers cannot afford to miss this 1919 report of this company.

Parson Dicken's sermon by Harry Walston.

Question box.

Closing song by all.

The March meeting will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Fink.

Committee: Mrs. Fred Rockefeller, Mrs. Wesley Webb, Mrs. H. Walston, Mrs. Jesse Hanford.

## NO RAIN WATER?

Don't Worry. RUB-NO-MORE WASHING POWDER breaks hard water. Ask your grocer. 33-2-c

## WILL ORGANIZE DUG-OUT IN ALMA

Buck Private Society of American Expeditionary Forces Is Starting Here.

## WAS FOUNDED IN GERMANY

Local Organization Will Be First in State For Active Service Men From Europe.

A dugout will be organized in this city by the Buck Privates Society of the American Expeditionary Forces, which will be known as Dug-out No. 7. William E. Lamb, field worker of the B. P. S. A. E. F., arrived in Alma yesterday to organize the dugout, which will be the first to be started in Michigan.

Only men of the army, navy and marines, who saw actual service are eligible for membership in the B. P. S. A. E. F., and of these men only privates, non-commissioned officers, gobs, etc., can belong. The organization was formed in Germany in July 1919, by the buck privates of the First Division, which was on duty on the banks of the Rhine.

The Buck Privates Society of The American Expeditionary Forces, has for its end several objects, Americanism, education, abolition of child labor and the protection of the "gold star" mother.

William E. Lamb, field worker, who is here in the interest of the B. P. S. A. E. F., came to Alma to organize the first dugout in the state, through a chance meeting with a former Alma nurse in Chicago. This former Alma nurse had been in the service, and was in a hospital in Chicago in which Lamb had been confined for two months. Upon hearing him say that he was coming to Michigan to organize dugouts, she made the request that he organize the first dugout in the state in Alma. There are at present only six dugouts in the entire United States, and Alma will have the seventh.

Mr. Lamb is urging that the former buck privates, gobs, and marines, who saw active service in Europe see him at the Arcada hotel within the next few days relative to the organization, or else attend a meeting to be held at the city hall on Monday evening at 8:00 o'clock, at which time the matter of the Alma dugout will be taken up.

## GREENVILLE WON

Visiting Team Defeated High School in Fast Game Friday.

The Greenville high school basketball quintet took the local high school cagers into camp in a fast game Friday evening by a score of 46 to 27, the Alma defense being powerless to stop the clever basket caging of Sherwood, Arntz and Ranney.

In Arntz and Ranney the visitors brought to Alma two of the cleverest forwards seen on the Alma floor this year. Their basket shooting was of high order and their floor work superb, it keeping the locals guessing at every stage of the contest. Even then the Alma five would have given Greenville a close fight or might have pulled a victory, had it not been for the great basket shooting that Sherwood, a guard, contributed. Without question his basket shooting was the finest that has been seen on the Alma floor in several seasons. Nine ringers, nearly every one of them a shot from almost half the length of the floor, marked his work. Such shooting as that cannot be classed as luck.

The Alma team put up a good fight for the honors of the evening. Especially was this true of Creech, the clever Alma forward, who was all over the floor, fighting every inch of the way. Seven field baskets were contributed to the Alma count by the clever forward.

Lineup and summary:  
Alma—26 Pos. Greenville—46  
V. Lyons R. F. Ranney  
Creech C. F. Arntz  
Elias L. Bowman  
L. Lyons R. G. Lohr  
Mitchell L. G. Sherwood  
Substitutions—Hyde for V. Lyons, V. Lyons for L. Lyons, Huntley for Ranney.

Field baskets—Sherwood 9, Arntz 6, Ranney 5, Bowman, Creech 7, Elias 3, V. Lyons 2, L. Lyons.  
Fouls—Arntz 4 out of 8, V. Lyons 1 out of 3.  
Referee—Smith, Alma.

## PARENT-TEACHERS' CLUB

The Parent-Teachers' club of the Washington school will meet at three o'clock on Friday, February 20. Prof. Hamilton will speak on the subject of "Pure English for the Children." Miss Conyne will tell a story. Music will be furnished by the girls quartette from the college.

## CLERK-CARRIER EXAMINATION

Competitive civil service examination will be held at the post office here February 28, for the selection of a clerk-carrier at the local office. Information in regard to the examination and applications can be secured from W. M. Stuckey at the post office.

## TWO FIRES

New Carney Hospital Suffered From A Heavy Loss; Other Loss Light.

The Alma fire department was called out twice Saturday afternoon, the second alarm calling the department to the residence which Dr. Thomas J. Carney purchased on Woodworth avenue, a week ago for a hospital, where a fire had started from some unknown source.

The blaze started in the basement, it is said, and quickly made its way up the partitions into the attic of the residence, giving the department a hard fire to handle.

Streams of water were quickly playing on the flames, but the fire proved stubborn, and it took the department nearly an hour to quell the blaze.

Just what the damage is to the structure is rather hard to estimate, but it is believed to be in the neighborhood of \$3,000, and possibly somewhat larger.

Earlier in the afternoon the department was called to the home of Fred Amshury in the western part of the city, where a small blaze had started. It was extinguished before the department arrived, however, the loss being very light.

## LEGION TO FORM

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Work Is Started Looking Towards the Formation of Strong Corps Here.

A movement is on foot here among the officers of the George W. Myers post No. 132, American Legion to organize a woman's auxiliary to work in conjunction with the post.

This movement is only a small portion of the nation-wide movement toward the formation of women's auxiliaries to be connected with the various legion posts, it being felt that there is a real need of such auxiliaries, and that they will offer a wonderful influence for good in their own communities as well as in nationwide movements in which the American Legion may take part.

A committee has been appointed from the local post of the Legion to meet with a committee, which is to be appointed from each of the women's organizations of the city, with a view of working out such an auxiliary in Alma. It is expected that these committees will meet in session within the next few days to take up the preliminary steps in the matter. Later a mass meeting of the women of the city may be held in connection with the formation of the organization.

Jerome Kanter of the local post, stated Tuesday that all wives, mothers, daughters and sisters of Legion members would be eligible to membership in the proposed organization, as well as such women in the Allied countries.

It was also stated that when the auxiliaries are formed that the woman's auxiliary will have a representative in the National headquarters of the Legion.

Mr. Kanter intimated that a general meeting of women would be called in the very near future in connection with the proposed auxiliary and urges that all women eligible to membership be present at the meeting, the date of which will be announced later in the columns of The Record, which are always open to the Legionnaires.

## TO CO-OPERATE

Alma Public Schools Will Co-Operate in National Essay Contest.

The Alma public schools will co-operate in the national essay contest to be held February 20, by the United States government, and local business men are joining with the government in offering prizes for the best school essays on the army.

Captain J. E. Chester, chaplain of the 53 Infantry, 6 Division, was in the city Tuesday and took the matter up with the school authorities, and with the merchants of the city, a number of whom have already pledged themselves for prizes.

Tuesday evening Captain Chester appeared before the city commission for a short time, when he told the members of the contest, of the need for recruits for the army, and the fact that the commission could aid greatly in the work by boosting for this branch of the service.

Prizes are being offered by Mayor Charles R. Murphy, Robinson's Department store, The Alma State Savings Bank, G. V. Wright Furniture store, and by Warren B. Holgre. It is expected that the list of prizes will be increased greatly within the next few days.

The prizes being offered by the Alma business men will be for the essays written by school children in Alma, and with a number of them being offered it should be a comparatively easy matter for school children to win one of them if they only have the determination to win, and the capabilities for writing well.

The government is offering only three prizes in the contest, these being for the best essays in the country, in the minds of the judges. The prizes are gold, silver and bronze medals.

## RECONSTRUCT AND MAKE EXTENSIONS

Union Telephone Company Get Approval of State for \$500,000 Stock Sale.

## TO SPEND \$95,000 IN ALMA

Large Amount To Be Used in This City in Rebuilding and Extending Plant.

Tuesday the Michigan Public Utilities Commission granted to the Union Telephone company approval for the issuance of \$900,000 additional stock, about two-fifths of which is to be used in paying off indebtedness and the balance to be used in making extensions, and improvements in the various plants of the company, particularly in Alma and the surrounding towns.

The city to derive the greatest benefit from the money that is to be spent for improvements will be Alma. According to testimony given to the commission the company, which has its headquarters in Owosso is planning on spending \$95,000. In this city the company plans to extend its offices in the Alma Realty Company block, to install a new switch board and to rebuild and extend the present plant, including the underground cables, etc. Nearly twice the amount will be spent in Alma by the company than in any of the other cities and towns that it is serving, although Mt. Pleasant is slated for some big improvements that will cost \$54,000.00.

In Owosso the company will spend \$37,500 for the installation of a switch board, cables and exchange enlargements. Corunna will get \$15,000 for the reconstruction of the outside plant. \$5,000 will be spent in increasing cable capacity in St. Louis. In Elsie \$5,000 will be spent and in Carson City \$8,500 is to be used for bettering the plant. In Breckenridge \$1,000 will be used for new cable, Durand will benefit to the extent of \$3,000, St. Johns \$8,500 and Hemiclock \$2,000.

Considerable money will be spent for new toll lines, telephone poles, etc.

The fact that the Union Telephone company is planning on spending this large sum in Alma shows conclusively that the officers of the company see a bright future for this city, which has been climbing to the fore with great rapidity during the past few years.

## LEGION WINS

Undeclared Edmore Team Swamped By Fast Legionaire Five.

The basket ball team of George W. Myers post No. 132, American Legion, swamped the undeclared Edmore court five last night under an avalanche of field baskets, while the stellar guards, Wood and Crittenden, held the visitors to two field baskets, the Alma quintet winning a score of 59 to 4.

The Legionnaires sent one of the cleverest fives ever seen in Alma to the floor to meet the visitors. It had a five man defense that completely stopped the visiting cagers. The offense was a revelation. M. Smith, D. Smith and Beattie, forming a combination of basket shooters that is hard to beat, twenty-nine field baskets being counted by the trio. It is one of the finest